

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 are presently active; Claims 1-26 having been amended by way of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title of the specification was objected to for not being descriptive. Figures 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2A, 2B, 2C and 3 were objected to for not having a legend such as "Prior Art". Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okauchi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,907,353). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okauchi in view of Anderson (U.S. Pat. No. 6,657,667). Claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okauchi. Claims 3, 11-14, 17, 20-24, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okauchi in view of Ishida et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,639,625). Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okauchi in view of Ishida et al and further in view of Anderson. Claims 15 and 16 were objected to for being dependent from a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Firstly, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 15 and 16. In order to expedite prosecution, Claims 15 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of Claims 12 and 14. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 15 and 16 are allowable.

Regarding the objection to the title, the title has been amended to be descriptive of the present invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the title has been overcome.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, on the replacement sheets, Figures 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2A, 2B, 2C, and 3 have been labeled with - -Prior Art--. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okauchi. As presently clarified, Claims 1, 2 and 25 define that the entire image is divided into divided images so that the divided images partially overlap, that one of the divided images is displayed, and that a similar image (e.g., a partial image) to the displayed divided image is picked up and stored. The displaying and the storing are successively carried out with respect to all of the divided images so as to combine the partial images.¹

Accordingly, Applicants submit that it is possible to secure the necessary overlap quantity for combining the partial images, without requiring the operator to be aware of such, and all parts of the target object can be positively picked up without a dropout by urging (or instructing) the operator to pickup the partial images without the dropout, as described on page 33, lines 4-16, of the specification.

On the other hand, Okauchi merely proposes automatically changing the optical axis when picking up divided images of the object image. Applicants respectfully submit that Okauchi fails to teach the subject matter of the present invention described above in Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, and 25. M.P.E.P. § 2131 requires for anticipation that each and every feature of the claimed invention must be shown. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, and 25 are allowable over Okauchi.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okauchi in view of Anderson. However, Claims 4 and 5 are dependent upon the base Claim 2 which is believed to be allowable over Okauchi for the reasons discussed above. Anderson is

¹ These features of the present invention are described on page 30, line 13, to page 33, line 20, of the specification.

merely cited in the outstanding Office Action as teaching the simultaneous display of a divided image and a picked up image, and fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of the present invention described above. Thus, the deficiencies in Okauchi are not overcome by Anderson. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 4 and 5 are allowable over Okauchi and Anderson.

Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okauchi. However, Claims 7 and 9 are dependent upon the base Claim 2 which is believed to be allowable over Okauchi for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 7 and 9 are allowable over Okauchi.

Claims 3, 11-14, 17, 20-24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okauchi in view of Ishida et al. However, Claim 3 is dependent upon the base Claim 2 which is believed to be allowable over Okauchi, for the reasons discussed above. Further, Claims 11, 12, and 26 have been amended similarly to Claims 1, 2, and 25. Ishida et al is merely cited as teaching a system for taking multiple photos at high zoom settings and combining them into a single high resolution photo. Thus, the deficiencies in Okauchi are not overcome by Ishida et al. Hence, Okauchi and Ishida et al both fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of the present invention described above. For these reasons, it is believed that Claims 3, 11-14, 17, 20-24, and 26 are allowable over Okauchi and Ishida et al.

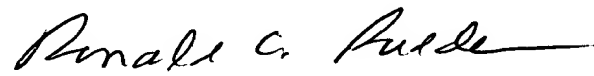
Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okauchi in view of Ishida et al and further in view of Anderson. However, Claims 18 and 19 are dependent upon the base Claim 12 which is believed to be allowable over Okauchi for the reasons discussed above. Further, the deficiencies in Okauchi are not overcome by Ishida et al or Anderson, as Ishida et al and Anderson fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of the present invention described above. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 18 and 19 are allowable over Okauchi, Ishida et al, and Anderson.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Letter Submitting Replacement Drawings, Replacement Sheets (2)

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